

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 558—DESIGNATING JUNE 10, 2008, AS “NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY” AND AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTION OF FOOD DONATIONS DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 12, 2008, AND ENDING JUNE 10, 2008, FROM CONCERNED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND STAFF TO ASSIST FAMILIES SUFFERING FROM HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY IN THE WASHINGTON, DC, METROPOLITAN AREA

Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 558

Whereas food insecurity and hunger are a fact of life for millions of low-income citizens of the United States and can produce physical, mental, and social impairments;

Whereas recent data published by the Department of Agriculture show that 35,500,000 people in the United States live in households experiencing hunger or food insecurity, and of that number, 22,800,000 are adults and 12,600,000 are children;

Whereas households with children had nearly twice the rate of food insecurity as those without children;

Whereas 3.3 percent of all United States households (3.8 million households) have accessed emergency food from a food pantry 1 or more times;

Whereas 55.5 percent of food-insecure households have participated in at least 1 of the 3 major Federal food assistance programs: the Federal food stamp program established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), the school lunch program established by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), and the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786);

Whereas the problem of hunger and food insecurity can be found in rural, suburban, and urban portions of the United States, touching nearly every community of the Nation;

Whereas, although substantial progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and food insecurity in the United States, certain groups remain vulnerable to hunger and the negative effects of food deprivation, including the working poor, the elderly, homeless people, children, migrant workers, and Native Americans;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long tradition of providing food assistance to hungry people through acts of private generosity and public support programs;

Whereas there is a growing awareness of the important public and private partnership role that community-based organizations, institutions of faith, and charities provide in assisting hungry and food-insecure people;

Whereas more than 50,000 local community-based organizations rely on the support and efforts of more than 1,000,000 volunteers to provide food assistance and services to millions of vulnerable people;

Whereas all citizens of the United States can help participate in hunger relief efforts in their communities by—

(1) donating food and money to such efforts;

(2) volunteering for such efforts; and
(3) supporting public policies aimed at reducing hunger: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 10, 2008, as “National Hunger Awareness Day”;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Hunger Awareness Day—

(A) with appropriate ceremonies, volunteer activities, and other support for local anti-hunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters; and

(B) by continuing to support programs and public policies that reduce hunger and food insecurity in the United States; and

(3) authorizes the collection of food donations during the period beginning May 12, 2008, and ending June 10, 2008, from concerned Members of Congress and staff to assist families suffering from hunger and food insecurity in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

SENATE RESOLUTION 559—DESIGNATING MAY 15, 2008, AS “NATIONAL MPS AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. BURR, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. SPETER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 559

Whereas mucopolysaccharidosis (referred to in this resolution as “MPS”) is a genetically determined lysosomal storage disorder that renders the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates;

Whereas complex carbohydrates are then stored in almost every cell in the body and progressively cause damage to those cells;

Whereas the cell damage adversely affects the human body by damaging the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system;

Whereas the cellular damage caused by MPS often results in mental retardation, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span;

Whereas the nature of the disorder is usually not apparent at birth;

Whereas, without treatment, the life expectancy of an individual afflicted with MPS begins to decrease at a very early stage in the life of the individual;

Whereas recent research developments have resulted in the creation of limited treatments for some MPS disorders;

Whereas promising advancements in the pursuit of treatments for additional MPS disorders are underway;

Whereas, despite the creation of newly developed remedies, the blood brain barrier continues to be a significant impediment to effectively treating the brain, thereby preventing the treatment of many of the symptoms of MPS;

Whereas treatments for MPS will be greatly enhanced with continued public funding;

Whereas the quality of life for individuals afflicted with MPS, and the treatments available to them, will be enhanced through the development of early detection techniques and early intervention;

Whereas treatments and research advancements for MPS are limited by a lack of awareness about MPS disorders;

Whereas the lack of awareness about MPS disorders extends to those within the medical community;

Whereas the damage that is caused by MPS makes it a model for study of many other degenerative genetic disorders;

Whereas the development of effective therapies and a potential cure for MPS disorders can be accomplished by increased awareness, research, data collection, and information distribution;

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise public awareness about MPS; and

Whereas the Senate is also an institution that can assist in encouraging and facilitating increased public and private sector research for early diagnosis and treatments of MPS disorders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 15, 2008, as “National MPS Awareness Day”; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of “National MPS Awareness Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 560—PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 18 THROUGH MAY 24, 2008, AS “NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK”

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 560

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital importance to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas those facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, including engineers and administrators, who represent State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas those individuals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the citizens and communities of the United States; and

Whereas it is in the interest of the public for citizens and civic leaders to understand the role that public infrastructure plays in—

(1) protecting the environment;
(2) improving public health and safety;
(3) contributing to economic vitality; and
(4) enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of May 18 through May 24, 2008, as “National Public Works Week”;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that those professionals serve; and

(3) urges citizens and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the Nation; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the Nation.